

colleagues on both sides will come to that conclusion.

I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SPECIALIST JOHNATHAN ALAN LAHMANN

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, today with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude I honor the life of a brave soldier from Richmond, IN. SPC Johnathan Lahmann, 21 years old, died December 10th in Tikrit, Iraq. Specialist Lahmann died of injuries he sustained in Bayhi, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. With an optimistic future before him, John risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

John was a 2004 graduate of Richmond High School where he avidly studied auto repair with plans to be a mechanic. According to his teacher, Roy Reisinger, John was so dedicated to studying auto repair that he would go to Mr. Reisinger's house on the weekends to work on cars. Mr. Reisinger described John to a local newspaper as "a top-notch mechanic" and "an all-around good young man." In addition to his strong work ethic praised by his teachers, his fellow classmates recall John's pleasant demeanor and his friendship.

After graduation, John worked at Mosey Manufacturing. In September 2005, John joined the Army, where he was trained as a combat engineer. He was assigned to the 59th Engineer Company, 20th Engineer Battalion, 36th Engineer Brigade, Fort Hood, TX. In November 2007, John was deployed to Iraq. He is survived by his parents, Linda and Alan C. Lahmann.

Today, I join John's family and friends in mourning his death. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over this loss, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is his courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of John. Today and always, John will be remembered by family members, friends, and fellow Hoosiers as a true

American hero, and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring John's sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg: "We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here." This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of John's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of SPC Johnathan Alan Lahmann in the official record of the United States Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy, and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged, and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that families like John's can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Johnathan.

IRAQ FUNDING

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, there has been a great deal of debate in recent weeks about whether to fund the needs of our soldiers overseas. The time to act has come.

We are nearing the end of the first quarter of the fiscal year, and despite steady progress in Iraq, Congress still has not passed a funding bill for our soldiers. Members of this body have been aware of the consequences of delaying funding for a long time.

In a November 8 letter, Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England explained that failure to fund military operations will "result in having to shut down significant portions of the Defense Department by early next year." The specific consequences, in Secretary England's words, include "closure of military facilities, furloughing of civilian workers and deferral of contract activity." In case there is any confusion about what this means to the military, Secretary England is quite clear: "this situation will result in a profoundly negative impact on the defense civilian workforce, depot maintenance, base operations, and training activities."

He also acknowledged that this delay in funding doesn't only harm our military but also sets back the training and equipping of Iraqi and Afghan security forces, whose expeditious development is critical to lasting peace in those nations.

This delay in funding shows a lack of support for our troops in harm's way, disregard for the measurable progress they have achieved in recent months, and indifference to the future of Iraq and Afghanistan. That is not the kind of leadership the American people expect of Congress.

It is time to heed the clear warnings from the Department of Defense, come together in support of the progress our soldiers are making, and provide them with the necessary resources so that they can continue their important work on behalf of the American people.

A December 8 article in the Washington Post by LT Pete Hegseth and GEN John Batista, a prominent critic of the Administration's policy in Iraq, encouraged Americans "to stand together, in and out of uniform," and commit to defeating our enemies. That means supporting the progress our soldiers are achieving and providing them the funds necessary to complete their mission and, thus, make Americans safer.

I ask unanimous consent to have the attached article printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, 8, 2007]

Congress has been entangled in a war-funding debate that pits war "supporters" against antiwar "defeatists." With all sides seemingly entrenched, a stalemate looms. The Pentagon, meanwhile, will soon begin stripping money from its training budget to fund the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Our military men and women deserve better than partisan politics; they deserve honest assessments of our nation's performance in fighting the Long War.

We are veterans of the Iraq war with vastly different experiences. Both of us commanded troops in Iraq. We, too, held seemingly entrenched, and incompatible, views upon our return. One of us spoke out against mismanagement of the war—failed leadership, lack of strategy and misdirection. The other championed the cause of successfully completing our mission.

Our perspectives were different, yet not as stark as the "outspoken general" and "stay-the-course supporter" labels we received. Such labels are oversimplified and inaccurate, and we are united behind a greater purpose.

It's time to discuss the way forward rather than prosecute the past. Congress must do the same, for our nation and the troops.

Overall, this will require learning from our strategic blunders, acknowledging successes achieved by our courageous military and forging a bold path. We believe America can and must rally around five fundamental tenets:

First, the United States must be successful in the fight against worldwide Islamic extremism.

We have seen this ruthless enemy firsthand, and its global ambitions are undeniable. This struggle, the Long War, will probably take decades to prosecute. Failure is not an option.

Second, whether or not we like it, Iraq is central to that fight. We cannot walk away from our strategic interests in the region. Iraq cannot become a staging ground for Islamic extremism or be dominated by other powers in the region, such as Iran and Syria. A premature or precipitous withdrawal from